

Best remembered as a distinguished military hero, Zachary Taylor was known as a resourceful, steadfast, modest and compassionate commander who fought many successful battles, earning from his soldiers and countrymen the affectionate nickname "Old Rough and Ready."

Zachary Taylor's personal popularity increased as his national prominence spread. General Taylor defeated Henry Clay, Winfield Scott and Daniel Webster for the Whig Party Presidential nomination. Although he had not sought office, Zachary Taylor was elected the 12th President of the United States.

Slavery was the driving issue of the campaign and the primary challenge of Zachary Taylor's brief Presidency. In his inaugural address, Zachary Taylor promised that the preservation of the Union would be his first obligation. He was determined to find a solution to end slavery even though he was a southerner and a slave holder. Zachary Taylor urged settlers in New Mexico and California to bypass the territorial stage and draft constitutions for statehood. As Southern Democrats called for a secession convention, Zachary Taylor reacted with a bristling statement that he would hang anyone who tried to disrupt the Union by force or by conspiracy, setting the stage for the Compromise of 1850.

During his 15 months in office, Zachary Taylor also created the Department of the Interior and signed a treaty with Great Britain guaranteeing a neutral canal connecting North and South America.

After laying the cornerstone of the Washington Monument on July 4, 1850, Zachary Taylor fell ill and passed away. An unprecedented 100,000 people lined the funeral route to see the hero laid at rest.

On November 24, 2009, representatives of local, State and Federal Government will gather to honor one of Orange County's most famous native sons. First Day Issue Zachary Taylor Dollar coins will be given to county schoolchildren. Please join me in commemorating the life of Zachary Taylor and the courage and efforts during his term of office to bring a peaceful end to slavery in the United States.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PETER S. LEVI

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a fine Missourian, Peter S. Levi, for his distinguished career as well as his lifelong commitment to community and economic development.

Mr. Levi has worked tirelessly in developing and fostering economic development throughout the Kansas City area for over 30 years. He first became involved in the region as executive director of the Mid-America Regional Council. After 13 years as the executive

director, he moved on to become president of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Levi's lifelong dedication to the city of Kansas City and surrounding area is evident through his championing of Kansas City and its economic potential. His 19 years as one of the chamber's most effective presidents has seen the chamber grow to represent about 9,000 area businesses while expanding the chamber's annual budget to over \$6 million.

Along with Mr. Levi's work with the Chamber of Commerce he has been an active member of several boards including the Kansas City Symphony, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Midwest Research Institute, University of Kansas Medical Center, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City.

Mr. Levi is a graduate of Northwestern University, B.A., and the University of Missouri-Kansas City, J.D., masters of law in urban legal affairs. He is married to Enid Levi and they have two sons Josh and Jeff.

Mr. Levi will retire from the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce on December 31 of this year. From his honorable service to the community to his impeccable leadership within the Chamber of Commerce, Peter S. Levi has always worked to inspire those around him with his vigor, sense of duty, and pride in his community.

With his many Kansas City friends, I thank Pete for his service to the city of Kansas City, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING LEWIS MILLETT

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am honored to remember Lewis Millett—a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, a retired Army colonel and a proud American who passed away on November 14, 2009.

Colonel Millett retired from the U.S. Army after a 31-year career that spanned three wars. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for leading a bayonet charge up a heavily defended hill during the Korean war. In his 31-year career in the Army, that included service in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, Colonel Millett received numerous awards, including the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, two Legions of Merit, three Bronze Stars, four Purple Hearts, and three Air Medals.

Born December 15, 1920, in Mechanic Falls, ME, Millett grew up in Massachusetts, where he joined the State National Guard. In 1940, with the war in Europe underway, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. But after President Franklin D. Roosevelt said that no Americans would fight on foreign soil, he deserted the Army and joined the Canadian Army. When he arrived in Europe in 1942, the United States was in the war and he was allowed to transfer back to the U.S. Army.

As a member of the 27th Armored Field Artillery of the 1st Armored Divi-

sion, Colonel Millett participated in the Allied invasion of North Africa, where he earned a Silver Star after driving a burning halftrack loaded with ammunition away from U.S. troops and jumping out before it exploded. After a year in combat, the Army reviewed his military record and convicted him of desertion. He was fined \$52 and sentenced to 3 days hard labor. He was not required to do the hard time, and 2 weeks later he was made a second lieutenant.

After World War II, he returned to civilian status and joined the Maine National Guard. When the Army called for volunteers in 1949, he returned to Active Duty.

He later served in Korea as a company commander and in Vietnam as a military adviser with the intelligence program called Phoenix. Colonel Millett retired from the US Army in 1973.

He is survived by his sons, Lee and Tim, and daughter Elizabeth; a brother, Albert; three sisters, Ellen Larabee, Jean Pepin, and Marion Finnity; and four grandchildren. I extend my heartfelt condolences to them.

The military community, the State of California, and our Nation have lost a proud American and a great warrior.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting nominations which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:16 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1839. An act to amend the Small Business Act to improve SCORE, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1842. An act to amend the Small Business Act to improve the Small Business Administration's entrepreneurial development programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3014. An act to amend the Small Business Act to provide loan guarantees for the acquisition of health information technology by eligible professionals in solo and small group practices, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3738. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to establish a program for the Small Business Administration to provide financing to support early-stage small businesses in targeted industries, and for other purposes.